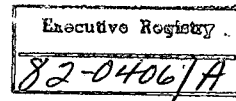


Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505



25 FEB 1982

Dr. Gustav F. Papanek
President
Association for Comparative
Economic Studies
Boston University
270 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Dr. Papanek:

I appreciate your taking the time to express the concern of the Association for Comparative Economic Studies for adjustments we have made in the distribution of unclassified CIA publications.

Many of the reasons you cited for broader distribution of CIA analysis are quite persuasive. For many of those same good reasons this Agency had for several years made an effort where possible to sanitize the products of classified analysis. We found over time, however, that this process often produced undesirable results. We were never sanguine, for example, that sanitized analytical conclusions based on classified data were not misleading when that data could not be included in the report made available for public consumption. Moreover, issue-related CIA analytical products often served to draw the Agency into protracted public debate, which diverted CIA analysts from their important primary duties. Of overarching importance to us, however, were other consequences: the threat to intelligence sources and methods, the resulting disappearances of certain open sources of information, the threat to our own objectivity, the potential for political controversy and diplomatic embarrassment, the reluctance of other intelligence sources to cooperate in the face of such openness, and the resource costs associated with preparing and defending unclassified analysis. These are the things that led to my decision to withhold analytical products.

I hasten to add that an abundance of unclassified CIA research material is continuously available to the public through the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce and the Document Expediting Project of the Library of Congress. Of particular interest to you through these outlets may be such products as our bi-weekly Economic and Energy Indicators and monthly International Energy Statistical Review.

L-305

Finally, I do not believe the quality of our research and analysis has suffered significantly. We have taken aggressive steps to expand our contacts with professional and academic experts outside the Agency in a wide variety of forums. In the final analysis, our concern for public understanding of national security issues notwithstanding, it remains that public education is not among the missions of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I hope the realities expressed here will in no way dampen or thwart our continued professional association. There are many other ways in which to derive mutually-rewarding reciprocal benefits.

Thank you again for expressing your concern.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence